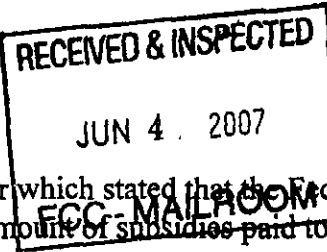


Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin:

I recently read an editorial in the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star which stated that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed capping the amount of subsidies paid to cell phone companies to improve service in rural parts of the United States.



I am a community activist who recently lead a petition in southeast Nebraska that quickly resulted in the names, addresses, and cell phone numbers of nearly 1400 frustrated Alltel customers in our area. We are frustrated because we pay the same amount for our cell phones that customers in the city pay, yet the reception in our area has become sporadic at best, and nonexistent at its worst. And now the FCC wants to cap the cell phone subsidies?


Those of us who live in rural areas need and deserve reliable cell phone service. But most importantly, we pay the same price for our cell service as residents of metropolitan areas. In addition, we are charged the same surcharge on our cell bills - a surcharge for the specific purpose of improving service in rural areas. It is my understanding that, without the federal subsidies, updating cell service in rural areas would be cost-prohibitive.

First and foremost, it is only fair that the people in rural areas get what we pay for. But that fact aside, people in rural areas need reliable cell phone service as much - if not MORE than - city residents. Why? Because if someone in a city has car trouble or has an emergency, he or she is almost always within walking distance of a telephone. In rural areas, we could walk for miles without ever reaching assistance.

Alltel Wireless answered our petition for better service by making a verbal commitment to build a new tower in Falls City, Nebraska in 2007. It is my understanding that this commitment would not have been possible without the federal subsidies that it received.

We in the rural communities pay our cell phone bills, so we expect, and quite frankly we deserve, the service. The cell phone industry is growing by leaps and bounds. If subsidies are necessary so rural areas can keep up with our changing world, then we need the subsidies. Residents of rural America need - and pay for-- RELIABLE cell phone service. It is only fair that we receive it. Don't forget about us. We need you.

Sincerely,

  
Lori Gottula  
Falls City, NE

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